



DIVISION OF MINES  
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

*First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman-  
West Virginia Reciprocal Agreement*

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

**CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: \*First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman – WEST VIRGINIA RECIPROCITY**

*Renewal must be in accordance with the BCME continuing education requirement.*

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Perform all duties required by State and Federal laws and codes as certified mine foreman/examiner
- Record findings on pre-shift, on-shift and weekly examinations

**NOTE:**

- This certification may be used to perform pre/shift – on/shift examinations at shaft/slope locations.
- **This certification meets requirement for General Miner.**

**APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)
- Copy of current West Virginia foreman card
- Reciprocity can only be used one time to achieve certification

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A score of 85% on the Mining Laws element of the examination.

*Applicants must pass the Mining Law section of the First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman examination in order for Virginia to reciprocity West Virginia foreman certification. If the mining law examination is failed, then the applicant may submit fee for retake of the examination 10 working days after the notification letter has been sent. If the applicant does not pass on the second try, the entire foreman examination (either First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman) must be taken under the regular examination process for foreman certification.*

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**ELEMENTS OF EXAM****NUMBER OF QUESTIONS**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| ▪ Mining Laws (ML) (Surface or UG)                             | 50 |
| ▪ Virginia Coal Surface Reclamation Regulations (RL) (Surface) | 20 |
|  |    |
| ▪ <u>Records</u> (UG)  |    |
| Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)  |    |
| Weekly Examination (WE)  |    |
| Practical Exercises (PS)                                       |    |
| - Ventilation  |    |
| - Roof Control   |    |
| - Emergency Response   |    |
|  |    |
| ▪ <u>Records</u> (Surface)                                     |    |
| Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)  |    |
| Ground Control/Red Zone Practical                              |    |

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

- Mining Laws of Virginia
- First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman Study Guide

**The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.**

**\*4 hours of biannual continuing education required to update this certification.**

Revised 05/17/06